Sl. No.	Name of the Director	Pay Scale	Term & Duration	
7.	Shri Arun Sharma, CCA (Steel & Mines)		7.12.95	—do—
8.	Shri S.N. Malik, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MMTC Ltd.		13.9.93	—do—

(b) to (d) Appointments to the post of functional Director in Public Sector Enterprises under the administrative control of various Ministries/Department are made with the approval of the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in accordance with the provisions contained in Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961, as amended from time to time. Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) is entrusted with the responsibility of selecting officers for the Board Level appointments in the Public Secter Enterprises. Accordingly, to fill up the post of Director (Technical) in National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC), PESB, after interview of the eligible candidates, recommended a panel of three candidates to Ministry of Steel. The PESB's recommendations for the appointment have been processed further for obtaining the approval of ACC.

Pre-examination Coaching for Minority Students

3452. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start pre-examination coaching to prepare students belonging to minorities to compete with others for Civil Services, States Services, Engineering, Medicine examinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not whether Government propose to do so and when?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) The pre-examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria is being implemented since 1992-93 for the target group consisting of other backward classes and minorities whose family income does not exceed Rs. 24,000/- per annum. This scheme is implemented through the reputed coaching institutions recommended by the concerned States/UT Govts. with 100% assistance by the Central Govt. The basic objective of the scheme is to train up candidates belonging to the target group to compete affactively on equal terms with other candidates in the tests leading to recruitment to various posts and admission in professional courses. An amount of Rs. 10 Crores has been earmarked under the VIII Five Year Plan. The budget provision for the year 1996-97 is Rs. 2 crores. A similar scheme is also being implemented by University Grants Commission through universities and colleges in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

MOU signed by STC

3453. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the STC signed a MOU on 11th June, 1993 with a private party against whom there was a business ban; and

(b) whether the Newsprint Division through Calcutta branch of STC dealt

with the same party prior to 11th June, 1993 but after the business ban was imposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) STC signed on MOU with M/s. General Trading & Sales Corporation (GTSC) on 11.6.93. In November, 1992, STC awarded a tender to M/s. Kagaz Vyapar Kendra (KVK).

A business ban had been imposed by STC on one M/s. Mayer Marketing Consultants, New Delhi in January, 1992. It emerged subsequently in 1993 that M/s. Mayer Marketing Consultants, M/s. GTSC and M/s. KVK were inter-related.

Increase in price of different grades of Coal

3454. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the prices of different grades of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the prices of different grades of coal in July, 1995 and the prevailing prices in July, 1996; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid the frequent rise of coal prices, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government deregulated pricing of coking coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal vide notification dated 22.3.96. The coal companies are now competent to fix the prices of these varieties. CIL have enhanced the prices of deregulated varieties of coal w.e.f. 1.4.96. SCCL have also enhanced the prices of B and C grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 19.4.96, as they produce only these varieties of the deregulated categories. Further in accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) a notification was issued on 22.3.96 increasing the price of regulated grades of coal produced in Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) to the level notified for Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

The prices were enhanced by CIL to make them commensurate with the cost of production of coal taking into account the increase in cost since the last price fixation. Also following a recommendation of BICP prices of coal produced by WCL have been raised to the level of prices of coal produced by SCCL because WCL operates in the same geological conditions.

(c) (Rs. per tonne)

Categories of coal	Price of ROM coal as in July '95	Price of ROM coal as in July'96		
		For companies other than MCL & WCL	For MCL	For WCL
Coking Coal				
SG-I	1048	1310	1310	1310
SG-II	875	1094	1094	1094
Washery-I	758	948	948	948
Washery-II	628	785	785	785
Washery-III	483	580	580	765
Washery-IV	450	540	540	628
Semi-Coking-I	758	948	948	948